



Barrington Police Department

100 Federal Road • Barrington, Rhode Island 02806
Telephone: (401) 437-3935 • Fax: (401) 437-3939



John M. LaCross
Chief of Police

Parents and Police: A Community Partnership Consent to Search Form

Date: _____ Expiration Date & Time: _____

I/we, _____, of _____

Barrington, RI, being the owner(s) of said address, give permission to members of the Barrington Police Department to enter our home and conduct a visual search of the premises, while we are away and/or absent from our home, if the Barrington Police have reason to believe that underage persons have gathered for the purpose of consuming alcoholic beverages. This authorization is granted for the sole purpose of allowing the Barrington Police Department to make visual searches for alcoholic beverages.

Permission to conduct a visual search is granted for the date(s) listed above, unless otherwise noted on this form. I/we, the undersigned, give written permission to the Barrington Police Department, voluntarily and without threats or promises of any kind, hereby releases and indemnifies the Town of Barrington and the Barrington Police Department from any and all claims whatsoever that may arise in connection with this consent to search. It is also understood that the Barrington Police Department may not be able to respond to our home while addressing other calls for service during the timeframe of this consent.

Chief of Police

Home Owner Signature

Phone #

Home Owner Signature

Phone #

Emergency Contact Person

Telephone No.

The guidelines for conducting a consent to search pursuant to authorization by a parent or guardian shall be as follows:



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1. If reasonable suspicion or probable cause exists to believe that underage persons, less than 21 years of age, have gathered to consume alcoholic beverages at a home, the Officer-In-Charge (OIC) shall be requested to respond to the scene immediately.
2. Officers shall determine whether or not a parent or legal guardian is in the home. If none is present in the home, Officers shall request to speak with the person/host in charge of the home and/or gathering.
3. If the door is opened and Officers visually observe illegal possession of alcohol or consumption of alcoholic beverages by underage persons, they may enter the home to investigate.
4. The person in charge of the home will be notified that a properly signed consent to search has been authorized permitting Barrington Police Officers to conduct a visual search for alcoholic beverages. A request to enter and search shall be made.
5. Once inside the home, only a visual search will be conducted of those areas likely to have been occupied by underage persons. Alcoholic beverages believed to be used for under age drinking in the immediate area of the gathering will be seized and the names and ages of those present shall be documented. Parents of any teenagers involved shall be notified to respond to pick up their child. Violations of law shall be handled accordingly with either an arrest or a complaint report and forwarded to the Juvenile Hearing Board if the juvenile meets the criteria and is a Barrington residence.
6. If consent to enter is denied (door remains closed), headquarters shall be notified to verify a Parents Consent to Search Form has been authorized. The information supplied on the consent form must be verified for accurateness, i.e. signature, date, address, proper name, etc., and the period for which the authorization is granted. If available, the emergency contact person on the form shall be called to respond to the home.
7. Force of any kind shall not be used to enter a home for the sole purpose of searching a home for the presence of consumption of alcoholic beverages. Negotiation shall be the preferred response for gaining entry and attempts to notify family members shall be made to assist in gaining entry. If entry cannot be gained, the door is closed, the Officer-In-Charge may seek other options, i.e., posting of an officer at the scene, continuous monitoring by patrols, notification to family.
8. Officers are reminded that possession of alcohol by a minor is a civil infraction punishable by a monetary fine.